Introduced by Senator Padilla

February 7, 2007

An act to add Section 1771.11 to the Labor Code, relating to public works.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 191, as introduced, Padilla. Labor compliance programs: approved private entity: remedies.

Existing law requires an awarding body, as defined, that chooses to use funds derived under specified bond acts for a public works project to either initiate and enforce, or to contract with a 3rd party to initiate and enforce, a labor compliance program, as defined, for that public works project.

This bill would authorize an awarding body to sue for specified damages in superior court if an approved private entity, as defined, that contracted with the awarding body to initiate and enforce a labor compliance program for a public works project either intentionally or through gross negligence does not competently perform the responsibilities required by statute and state regulations for a labor compliance program. This bill would also authorize an awarding body, aggrieved employee, contractor, or other interested party to file a complaint with the Director of Industrial Relations against an approved private entity for failing to perform these responsibilities, and establish administrative procedures to address these complaints. This bill would also authorize the director, under these administrative procedures, to order the approved private entity to return the fees paid by an awarding body and to revoke the approval of the private entity to initiate and enforce a labor compliance program in the future. This bill would specify that an approved private entity would not be required to pay the same SB 191 -2-

amounts under both a superior court judgment and under the administrative procedures established by the bill. This bill would specify that these provisions apply only to contracts that are entered into on or after the operative date of the bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1771.11 is added to the Labor Code, to 2 read:

1771.11. (a) The remedies in this section are available only against an approved private entity.

- (b) If an awarding body can demonstrate by a preponderance of evidence that an approved private entity, that contracted with the awarding body to initiate and enforce a labor compliance program for a public works project, either intentionally or through gross negligence did not competently perform the responsibilities required by statute and state regulations for a labor compliance program, the awarding body may seek either of the following remedies in superior court:
- (1) That the approved private entity shall not be entitled to be paid its fees due under the contract by the awarding body.
- (2) That the approved private entity shall be liable to the awarding body to return the fees already paid under the contract.
- (c) (1) An awarding body, aggrieved employee, a contractor, or other interested party may file with the director a complaint that an approved private entity, either intentionally or through gross negligence, has not competently performed the responsibilities required by statute and state regulations for a labor compliance program.
- (2) The director shall provide the approved private entity with notice of the complaint and the opportunity to respond to the complaint.
- (3) If the director determines that the complaint appears to be meritorious and to involve a material failure by the approved private entity to perform its responsibilities under statute and state regulations for a labor compliance program, the director shall hold an evidentiary hearing and shall issue a written decision regarding

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1 the complaint. The director's decision may order either of the 2 following:

- (A) That the approved private entity return all or part of its fee to the awarding body, depending on the seriousness of the violation.
- (B) A revocation of the approval of the approved private entity to operate a labor compliance program in the future.
- (4) An aggrieved party may obtain review of the director's decision by filing a petition for a writ of mandate to the appropriate superior court pursuant to Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure within 45 days after service of the decision. If a petition for writ of mandate is not filed within 45 days after service of the decision, the director's order shall become final.
- (5) A certified copy of the director's final order may be filed by the awarding body in the office of the clerk of the superior court in any county in which the approved private entity conducts business. The clerk, immediately upon the filing, shall enter judgment for the awarding body in the amount shown on the certified order.
- (d) The remedies provided by this section do not preclude either of the following:
- (1) Other remedies the awarding body may have under the contract.
- (2) Other procedures used by the director to revoke the approval of private entities to operate labor compliance programs for public works projects.
- (e) Notwithstanding any other law, an approved private entity shall not be required to return the same fees under both paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) and subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (c).
- (f) For purposes of this section, "approved private entity" means a private entity that is approved by the director to initiate and enforce a labor compliance program for a public works project.
- (g) This section is deemed to be part of every contract between an awarding body and an approved private entity to initiate and enforce a labor compliance program for a public works project. This section applies only to contracts for an approved private entity to initiate and enforce a labor compliance program that are entered
- 38 into on and after the operative date of this section.